

Make ‘n Take

Name of Make ‘n Take: Ceremonies of Thanksgiving

Theme & Topic: First Nations and the Newcomers Settle in what is now know as Saskatchewan – First Nations Reserves and the Settlement of the Newcomers on the Land

Names of Teachers: Arlene Syrota

Name of School: Lakeview School, Regina Public School Division

Grades: 4 and 5

Date: October 8, 2009

Materials:

Brown and grey construction paper, pebbles, feathers, sequins, and other craft materials available.

Procedure:

1. Discuss with the students that Thanksgiving Day is a day when people give thanks for all the blessings they have in their lives. Ask them to tell the class what they are thankful for. Once everyone has a chance to share let them know that Saskatchewan was made possible by treaties between First Nations and the British Crown. Talk about the sacred ceremony that First Nations people used in treaty making.
2. Explain purpose of pipe ceremony in the signing of these treaties. Talk about the treaty promises made to First Nations people and the British Crown. Talk about the newcomers who came to live in the prairies and the difficulties they had in surviving the harsh weather conditions. They celebrated by having one day each year to be thankful for all that was given to them. This day is still celebrated today “Thanksgiving Day” in the month of October. Let the students know that they are going to make a “thanksgiving” pipe that shows what they are thankful for.
3. Have students roll up construction paper creating a pipe. Decorate the pipe with craft materials, pebbles and feathers.

4. Students cut out clouds of smoke from grey construction paper. Tell the students that their thank you prayers will be written on these clouds of smoke.
5. Attach the pipes and smoke clouds to a bulletin board for display in the classroom or in the hallway.
6. Go to the Make n Take lesson in Grade Kindergarten on Wiki Space – “Promise Bulletin Board” for an example of one way this can be done.